

## PIEDMONT CITY COUNCIL

### Regular Meeting Minutes for Monday, July 18, 2011

A Regular Session of the Piedmont City Council was held July 18, 2011, in the City Hall Council Chambers at 120 Vista Avenue. In accordance with Government Code Section 54954.2(a) the agenda for this meeting was posted for public inspection on July 14, 2011.

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

Following a 7:00 p.m. Closed Session relating to potential litigation held pursuant to Government Code Sections 54956.9(b)(1)(B) and 54956.9(b)(1)(E), Mayor Barbieri called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance. He announced that immediately following the conclusion of tonight's meeting, the Council will reconvene its Closed Session to resume discussion of the above-mentioned potential litigation matter as well as discuss labor negotiations for all units pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.6.

#### **ROLL CALL**

Present: Mayor Dean Barbieri, Vice Mayor John Chiang and Councilmembers Margaret Fujioka, Garrett Keating and Jeff Wieler

Staff: City Administrator Geoff Grote, City Attorney Tom Curry, Police Chief John Hunt, Finance Director Mark Bichsel, Recreation Director Mark Delventhal, Interim Public Works Director Chester Nakahara, Police Captain Scott Wyatt, Police Detective George Phifer, Assistant Planner Kevin Jackson and Recording Secretary Chris Harbert

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

##### **Resolution 60-11**

RESOLVED, that the City Council approves as submitted its meeting minutes of July 5, 2011.

Moved by Chiang, Seconded by Wieler

Ayes: Barbieri, Chiang, Fujioka, Keating, Wieler

Noes: None

Absent: None

#### **PUBLIC FORUM**

Rick Schiller voiced concern that the traffic plan being prepared in connection with the Moraga Canyon Sports Field Project is too radical and experimental in terms of its proposed mini roundabout at the intersection of Maxwellton and Moraga Avenue. He stressed that this proposed roundabout completely fails to comply with the design guidelines of the Federal highway technical standards and he requested the Council to direct staff to examine the Federal highway standards and report its findings as to the traffic plan's lack of compliance.

#### **REGULAR CALENDAR**

The Council considered the following items of regular business:

##### **COPS Funding**

The Police Chief recommended Council acceptance of \$27,555.47 in Citizens Option of Public Safety (COPS) funding received on April 20, 2011, and appropriate said sum to the Police Department's equipment account. The Chief stated his intent to use this allocation, in addition to future COPS grants, to fund a \$150,000 upgrade of the department's two dispatch radio consoles to comply

with P-25 interoperability standards by July 2012. The anticipated upgrade will take place in January 2012. Captain Wyatt explained that the proposed radio upgrades are needed to integrate with the City of Oakland's newly upgraded police radio system.

**Resolution 61-11**

RESOLVED, that the City Council accepts \$27,555.47 in Citizens Option for Public Safety funding and appropriates said amount to the Police Department's equipment account.

Moved by Fujioka, Seconded by Chiang

Ayes: Barbieri, Chiang, Fujioka, Keating, Wieler

Noes: None

Absent: None

(0088)

**Crime Report**

The Police Chief submitted Piedmont's crime statistics for the first half of 2011, noting a 51% increase in crime rates over 2010 levels for the same period. The incidences in crimes have been a Citywide phenomena, with increases in burglaries, larceny-thefts and motor vehicle thefts. The Chief and Detective Phifer described the department's response to this spike in crime, noting in particular the increase of police patrols in the hardest hit crime areas, the use of a successful "decoy" program and continuation of the department's public education and awareness campaign to inform residents how best to avoid being a crime victim. In addition, they noted their optimism that a number of recent arrests both by Piedmont police and other police agencies may slow the pace of future burglaries for the remainder of 2011.

**Correspondence** was received from: Rick Schiller

**Public testimony** was received from:

Rick Schiller testified to his personal knowledge of an increase in crime in the Fairview/Grand Avenue area and concurred with the department's policy of increasing police patrols in the City's highest crime areas.

George Kersh stated that the map provided with the staff report indicating the locations where crime incidents have occurred was unreadable.

The Council agreed that the format of the submitted "crime map" was not very useful. The Vice Mayor agreed to provide the Chief with mapping software which may be able to produce a more informative product. Councilmember Fujioka encouraged the Chief to continue publication of crime tips and the public awareness campaign as well as release as quickly as possible the descriptions and modus operandi of suspected burglars so that residents can be on the look-out. Councilmember Keating suggested that police volunteers be used for patrol purposes in low crime areas so that more police officers can be assigned to patrol high crime areas.

**Appointment**

The City Administrator recommended that Mr. Chester Nakahara be appointed as Public Works Director. Mr. Nakahara has served as Interim Public Works Director since the June 30, 2010, retirement of former Director Larry Rosenberg. The Administrator submitted a proposed salary and benefit resolution for Mr. Nakahara representing a salary increase of 10% above his current interim salary of \$132,950.

**Public testimony** was received from:

George Kersh supported Mr. Nakahara's appointment at his current salary, not with the 10% increase recommended by the City Administrator.

**Resolution 62-11**

RESOLVED, the City Council appoints Chester Nakahara as Public Works Director, effective July 1, 2011, at a salary of \$146,245 pursuant to the salary and benefit resolution submitted and on file in the City Clerk's Office.

Moved by Chiang, Seconded by Wieler

Ayes: Barbieri, Chiang, Fujioka, Keating, Wieler

Noes: None

Absent: None

(0045/X0085)

The Council congratulated Mr. Nakahara on his appointment.

**Environmental Task  
Force Update**

The Assistant Planner highlighted his detailed staff report outlining staff's implementation to date of the recommendations of the City's Environmental Task Force adopted by the Council on January 4, 2010, as well as the measures contained in the City's Climate Action Plan, adopted March 15, 2010. The Assistant Planner stated that the implementation actions undertaken by staff have been made possible through grant funding received from StopWaste.Org, the Environmental Protection Agency and the California Energy Commission as well as invaluable assistance from the volunteers of Piedmont CONNECT. Currently, staff work load and a lack of funding precludes at this time further implementation of adopted measures. However, staff intends to continue to pursue grant and other funding opportunities as well as undertake new implementation actions as its work load permits.

Councilmember Fujioka suggested that staff: (1) explore the possibility of utilizing U.C. grad student assistance in implementing environmental recommendations; and (2) coordinate with the Public Safety Committee in arranging for PG&E and EBMUD to distribute brochures containing energy saving and water conservation tips to residents attending the September 25 *Harvest Festival*. Councilmember Keating repeated his suggestion that the Council consider appointing a Sustainability Commission to explore energy efficiency technological advances and funding opportunities and provide guidance and input on these matters to staff. He felt that such a commission would enable the City to utilize the professional expertise of resident volunteers in much the same manner as it does with the Municipal Tax Review Committee.

Councilmember Keating also requested staff to provide the results of a City water audit performed by EBMUD approximately two years ago.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Alameda Conference of Mayor's -- The Mayor reported on the July 13th Alameda Conference of Mayor's dinner hosted by Piedmont, thanking John Tulloch (Interim City Clerk) and Patty Jennaro (Administrative Assistant) for their assistance in organizing the dinner.

Public Safety -- Councilmember Fujioka encouraged residents to enroll in the Police Department's E-Mail Alert Program and to follow the crime prevention tips listed on the department's website.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Ramona/Ronda Traffic Median -- in order to correct an inadvertent oversight, the City Administrator agreed to include on the next meeting's consent calendar, Council approval of CIP funds for the construction of the Ramona/Ronada traffic median.

Community Pool Update -- staff to provide an update regarding pool operations either in August or September.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further regular calendar business, Mayor Barbieri adjourned the Council at 9:15 p.m. to Closed Session to resume discussion of potential litigation as well as discuss labor negotiations for all units pursuant to Government Code Sections 54956.9(b)(1)(B) & 54956.9(b)(1)(E) and 54957.6, respectively.